

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

IO-13 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /090 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7740

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAU, SU

SUBJECT: KHARTOUMON THE EVE OF THE OAU SUMMIT

1. THE SUDANESE ARE FRENETICALLY MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE OAU MINISTERIAL (NOW JUST TWO DAYS AWAY) AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES. THE STREETS ARE FULL OF TROOPS; THE SIRENS OF POLICE ESCORTS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING HEARD; THE AIRPORT, WHICH IN NORMAL TIMES RESEMBLES BEDLAM, HAS BECOME ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. WE ARE RUNNING INTO SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF ACCESS TO THE AIRPOT. THE MILITARY ARE ON FULL ALERT AND THE PRESIDENCY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE WORKING PRACTICALLY AROUND THE CLOCK. VP AND FONMIN RASHID AL TAHIR BROKE AWAY FROM A MEETING LAST NIGHT TO ATTEND OUR 4TH OF JULY RECEPTION (ARRIVING AFTER THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS HAD BEEN PLAYED); SPENT A FEW MINUTES; AND THEN DASHED BACK TO WORK.

2. ALL THE SUDANESE LEADERS WE HAVE TALKED TO, FROM PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ON DOWN, ARE FRANK IN EXPRESSING THEIR APPREHENSIONS ABOUT THE MEETING. THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT ONES ARE SECURITY AND PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS. THEY SEEM MUCH LESS CONCERNED ABOUT THE MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED, ALTHOUGH THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MEETINGS COULD DEGENERATE INTO A DONNYBROOK.

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3. SUDANESE SECURITY CONCERNS ARE BASED PRIMARILY ON PROBLEM OF AFFORDING ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO THE MANY AFRICAN LEADERS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE SKILLED AND FANATIC ENEMIES. AN UNSPOKEN, BUT WE BELIEVE, VERY REAL, CONCERN IS THAT ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO THE NIMEIRI REGIME WILL TRY TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE REQUIRED CONCENTRATION OF SECURITY FORCES.

4. IT HAS ALSO BEEN BROUGHT HOME TO THE SUDANESE HOW TOTALLY INADEQUATE ARE THEIR PHYSICAL FACILITIES. THEY HAVE TRIED HARD. THE ARAK AND GRAND HOTELS ARE OPEN AND OPERATING. THE STREETS ARE FULL OF SHINY NEW MERCEDES WITH OAU PLATES (GOD KNOWS WHERE THE MONEY FOR THOSE CAME FROM). THE FRIENDSHIP HALL CONFERENCE CENTER, WHICH HAS EXCELLENT FACILITIES, IS RUNNING SMOOTHLY. BUT ALREADY THE COMPLAINTS AND FRUSTRATIONS ARE COMING IN. UNSYG WALDHEIM HAS BEEN TOLD THAT HE MUST CUT BACK HIS RETINUE FROM THIRTEEN TO FOUR. I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT THE FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL WRITE ABOUT THE SUDAN WHEN THEY SEE THE ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED FOR THEM AT THE DORMS OF KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY.

5. WE WILL HAVE TO BEAR WITH THE SUDANESE IN THE DAYS AHEAD. I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL BEAR WITH THIS EMBASSY. THE SUDANESE THESE DAYS REMIND ONE OF THE MAN IN LINCOLN'S ANECDOTE WHO WAS TARRERED AND FEATHERED AND RUN OUT OF TOWN ON A RAIL. THAT UNFORTUNATE INDIVIDUAL IS SAID TO HAVE REMARKED: "IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE HONOR OF THE THING, I WOULD JUST AS SOON HAVE WALKED."  
BERGUS

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## Message Attributes

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